

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 CIEP-01
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TAGS: EAID, EFIN, EAGR, EEC
SUBJECT: INTERNATIONAL FUND FOR AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT SITE AND
PRESIDENCY

REF: (A) 76 STATE 3105)1, (B) OECD PARIS 839 (NOTAL)

1. SUMMARY: EC COMMISSION OFFICIALS AGREE WITH US VIEWS
REGARDING PROPOSED LOCATION OF IFAD SITE, BUT BELIEVE
ALLOCATING TOP MANAGEMENT POSITIONS TO TWO MAJOR DONOR
COUNTRIES WOULD ADVERSELY EFFECT ROLE OF OTHER LDCE IN IFAD.
COMMISSION OFFICIALS INFORMALLY SUGGEST POSSIBLE ALTERNATIVES
TO ASSURE EQUITABLE BALANCE AMONG PARTICIPATING GROUPS OF
COUNTRIES. END SUMMARY.

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2. PER REFTEL A, MISSION OFFICER DISCUSSED WITH
COMMISSION STAFF OFFICIALS US VIEWS REGARDING IFAD SITE
AND PRESIDENCY. THEY AGREE WITH FIRST US BASIC
PRINCIPLE, ADDING THAT THE EC FAVORS LOCATING THE SITE
IN ROME. THESE OFFICIALS BELIEVE THAT SHOULD THE VOTE
ON THE SITE BE TAKEN BY SECRET BALLOT, ROME WILL BE

SELECTED. HOWEVER, SHOULD PARTICIPANTS HAVE TO PUBLICLY REGISTER THEIR VOTES, TEHRAN MAY BE A GOOD BET.

3. COMMISSION OFFICIALS QUIBBLE WITH US PROPOSED ALLOCATION OF TOP MANAGEMENT POSITIONS TO ONLY DONOR COUNTRIES, BECAUSE OF THEIR CONCERN OF THE ADVERSE EFFECT THIS WOULD HAVE ON NON-DONOR LDCS. THEY FAVOR INVOLVING LDCS AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE IN IFAD AFFAIRS. CONSEQUENTLY THEY INFORMALLY SUGGEST THREE POSSIBLE ALTERNATIVES TO US PROPOSAL: (1) THAT THE TWO MAIN GROUPS--DCS AND LDCS, INCLUDING OPEC COUNTRIES--EACH BE GRANTED ONE OF THE TWO TOP MANAGEMENT POSITIONS; THIS WOULD LEAVE IT TO THE LDCS WHETHER A CATEGORY II OR CATEGORY III COUNTRY SHOULD RECEIVE A TOP POSITION; (2) THAT THE PROPOSED POSITION OF SECRETARY BE ELEVATED IN STATUS, SO THAT EACH CATEGORY OF COUNTRY WOULD RECEIVE A TOP POSITION; OR (3) THAT, IF FEASIBLE, THE PROPOSED STATUTES BE MODIFIED TO ADD A SECOND VICE-PRESIDENTIAL POSITION.

4. COMMISSION OFFICIALS AGREE IN THE SHORT RUN WITH PROPOSED US PRINCIPLE THAT NEITHER DONOR GROUP SHOULD OBTAIN BOTH THE PRESIDENCY AND THE SITE. THEY NOTE, HOWEVER, THAT DCS SHOULD BE FLEXIBLE IN THE LONGER TERM, BECAUSE ONCE MANAGEMENTS' TERMS IN OFFICE EXPIRE, IFAD MEMBERS MAY WANT TO APPOINT OFFICIALS FROM DIFFERENT COUNTRY CATEGORIES THAN THOSE OF THE ORIGINAL OFFICE-HOLDERS.

5. THESE OFFICIALS PLAN TO COORDINATE MEMBER STATE VIEWS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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REGARDING IFAD ISSUES FOR PROPOSED JANUARY 21 DAC MEETING. THIS COORDINATION WILL LIKELY TAKE PLACE IN PARIS JUST PRIOR TO DAC SESSION.

6. COMMISSION OFFICIALS SAY THEY ARE PLEASED THAT THE COMMISSION HAS NOW BEEN DESIGNATED AN OBSERVER TO IFAD PREPCOM. THIS SHOULD ESTABLISH PRECEDENT FOR SIMILAR STATUS FOR COMMISSION ONCE IFAD IS OFFICIALLY ESTABLISHED. COMMISSION OFFICIALS PLAN TO TAKE AN ACTIVE ROLE IN IFAD ACTIVITIES. THEY HOPE THAT WHEN IFAD FUNDS ARE REPLENISHED, THE EC WILL PARTICIPATE AS A GROUP AND PROVIDE ITS SHARE THROUGH THE EC BUDGET. HINTON

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